

destruction in Iraq, weapons that do not even exist: Hundreds of American lives lost, thousands of Iraqi lives lost, thousands and thousands, in fact over 25,000 American soldiers injured, and hundreds of billions of dollars spent. Should we not be investing in eliminating a genuine nuclear threat? And we ought to be applying the lessons of CTR's success in Russia to dealing with Iran and North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, SMART security is an example. It is tough, but it is diplomatic; it is aggressive, but peaceful; it is pragmatic, but idealistic.

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY REPLAY OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, coming back into town today and picking up a copy of one of the local papers, I read the headline, "Members Seek UN Election Monitors." Quoting from today's Roll Call, "a dozen Democratic House Members last week called on the United Nations to send monitors to oversee November's U.S. presidential election."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that I was astounded to read that in the paper today. It seems that there are people in this House who cannot get over the facts of the election that was held in the Year 2000, and the facts are that George W. Bush won that election. He won it in the constitutionally prescribed manner of a majority of electoral votes; he won on election day; and he won on every single recount held thereafter, until the Supreme Court said enough recounting 34 days later, and the counts were stopped.

But the President even won in the Miami Herald's recount that came out, I forget, in February or March of 2001, well into the President's first term. The Miami Herald finally acknowledged the fact that indeed George Bush had won Florida's electoral votes and had indeed won the election.

Those 34 days of transition time were critical to the start of this administration. We had an economy that was headed into a recession, and, as we found out later in that year, we had enemies of this country who were gathering strength and preparing to attack this country. Thirty-four days in transition were critical days that were lost.

But now comes this group who says that the events of the 2000 election are so serious that UN monitors are required on U.S. soil to monitor our electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that the constituents of my district just simply do not understand what goes on in Washington, D.C. We have a candidate for the highest office in this land who says that foreign leaders would prefer him to be the President.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a judicial branch that seems to keep its eye on

what the foreign courts are ruling and what they are deciding.

Now, I am sad to say, we have Members of this body who simply do not understand what "sovereignty" means, and how ironic is that at a time when we are celebrating sovereignty in the country of Iraq, we just celebrated Independence Day in this country, and Members of our own body do not grasp that simple concept.

Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn in here 18 months ago, I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. I think that is a good idea, to have that oath, to swear to uphold the Constitution. I think it might be a good thing if other Members of this body remembered why they are here.

#### CRITIQUING THE ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, if the last speaker had ever traveled outside the United States, he might understand why it is that every country in the world wants George Bush replaced.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to rise today to address the policies of this administration. I intend to use the "F" word, so be forewarned.

During the administration's watch, America has lost nearly 2 million jobs in the private sector. Through no fault of their own, Americans who are out of work cannot find a job. The administration's response is to classify flipping hamburgers as a manufacturing job.

We could have helped Americans weather the storm by extending unemployment benefits, but the administration turned a deaf ear.

Health care costs have skyrocketed in America, up to an average of 49 percent in 3 years. One in seven American families are struggling to pay medical bills, families are being forced to choose between food, housing and medicine. Unpaid medical bills are a leading cause of personal bankruptcy.

So what does the administration do? Provide health care for everybody in Iraq; muzzle the expert who knows what the prescription drug bill would really cost; and passes a drug bill for seniors after drug companies raise prices three times the rate of inflation, negating any possible benefit from a prescription drug card. There is an "F" word in there someplace.

Today, one out of every three Americans breathes unhealthy air. Thanks to this administration, existing rules are being rolled back so that old, dirty power plants can keep belching their pollutants into the atmosphere. The American Lung Association calls it the most harmful and unlawful air pollution initiative ever undertaken by the Federal Government.

□ 1945

100 million Americans live in places where the air is not fit to breathe. The

administration's response is to label science as fiction and then work to undermine environmental protection. We know the sources of pollution. Coal-fired power plants and diesel trucks are two big culprits. We know how to clean up the air. What does the administration do? Choose polluters over people. Choose polluters over protection. The administration wants to let oil rigs into the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The oil companies cannot wait. The only thing greater than America's greed for oil is the insatiable desire for profits by oil companies.

Certainly there must be an "F" word that applies when oil companies post 300 percent profits. The administration's civilian leaders must have lots of "F" words when the world first learned about the prisoner abuse scandals in Iraq. First they denied knowing anything. That was followed by media revelations of what they knew and approved in advance. The Geneva Conventions was something to embrace, not follow. That is the bottom line of the internal White House memos.

Need something else to use the "F" word? The administration has launched an undeclared draft in America. The undeclared draft compels current and former soldiers to fight in Iraq, even if they have already served. The undeclared draft uses rhetoric to mask reality. The military does not have enough soldiers. The administration knows they will be thrown out of office if they told America the truth. So the undeclared draft is called something else for now. Wait till after the election if George Bush wins.

The veterans seeking health care, the administration has a new plan. Bring your checkbooks and get in line. The administration wants to cut hundreds of positions in the VA. They want veterans to pay even more of the financial burden for the purchase of prescription drugs, and it wants veterans to pay a new enrollment fee. The administration's proposed budget for the VA is \$2.5 billion too low, but that is nothing compared to what the administration intends to do to education in title I funding which helps disadvantaged kids across America. This administration underfunds title I by over \$7 billion next year.

Half of every eligible school district in America will receive less grant money. The need is greater, but that does not matter. Only the rich have strong advocates in this administration.

From education to the environment, from veterans to health care, from the economy to forced military service, from moral leadership to global credibility, one word applies to this administration: the "F" word, failure, the administration's failure to create jobs that Americans want and deserve; the administration's failure to protect our land, air, water, and people; the administration's failure to confront military reality; the administration's failure to invest in our future leaders; the administration's failure to address the needs